MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1970

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Public Health, Housing and Plans Committee

Chairman:- H. A. Orbell, Esq.

Councillors:-
H. V. Aveling
F. A. Clark
D. A. Dagless
Mrs. D. Fleming
M. K. Ogden
P. M. Skoulding

Medical Officer of Health

J. C. Burns, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,
Town Hall, March. Telephone: March 2331

Public Health Inspector

H. Burton, M.A.P.H.I.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1970

Madam Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1970 together with a report from the Public Health Inspector.

I wish to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health, Housing and Plans Committee for their interest and support and to my colleagues on the Council's staff for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Madam Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. C. BURNS

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics

Area in acres	19,786
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate for 1970) ..	14,060
Number of inhabited houses	5,263
Number of dwellings owned by the Council	1,100
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1971)	£542,136
Amount represented by estimated 1p. rate 1970/71	£5,195

The area of the Urban District remained unchanged at 19,786 acres and the estimated population decreased by 20 to 14,060. Whilst the main forms of employment remain much the same as in former years it is noticeable that some useful changes are taking place. On the agricultural side mechanical equipment continues to expand and the allied undertakings associated with the preparation and packaging of vegetables has increased. In the industrial sphere useful additions have been established amongst which may be noted concrete pipe making, bag making and metalwork.

Vital Statistics

Live Births

Number	(Male 109) ( ) (Female 104)	Total	213
Rate per 1,000 population			15.15
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births ..			5.63

Stillbirths

Number	(Male 3) ( ) (Female 1)	Total	4
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths			18.43

Total Live and Stillbirths

	(Male 112) ( ) (Female 105)	Total	217

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)

	(Male 1) ( ) (Female -)	Total	1

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	4.69
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	4.98
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	4.69
Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	4.69
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	23.04
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 population	12.59

Cause of death	Male	Female	Total
Malignant Neoplasm, buccal cavity etc	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	3	5
Malignant Neoplasm, intestine	4	2	6
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	3	11
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, prostate	1	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	6	4	10
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	2	-	2
Diabetes Mellitus	1	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	3	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	30	19	49
Other forms of Heart Disease	6	6	12
Cerebrovascular Disease	15	14	29
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	6	7
Influenza	1	3	4
Pneumonia	1	5	6
Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	2	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	-	3
Appendicitis	-	1	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	-	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	2
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	-	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-	1
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	1	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-	2
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	3	1	4
All other External Causes	1	-	1
	97	80	177

The following table gives the percentage of deaths in the principal age groups:-

Under 1 year	0.57
1 - 4 years	-
5 - 14 years	0.57
15 - 64 years	22.03
65 and over	76.83
	100.00

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year:-

Measles	6
Scarlet Fever	7
Infective Jaundice	12
	25

Food Hygiene

This demands constant vigilance and receives the necessary attention throughout the year. Details of visits and action taken are given later in the report.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were reported during 1970.

National Assistance Act

No action was necessary under this Act during 1970.

Factories Act, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1970 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH IN THE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND ISLE OF ELY

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities				
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	43	16	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2			
	45	16	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H. M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H. M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.4)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work)					
TOTAL	4	4			

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing) Making etc apparel)						
Cleaning & washing						
Household linen						
Lace, lace curtains and nets						
Curtains and furniture hangings						
Furniture and upholstery						
Electro-plate						
File making						
Brass and brass articles						
Fur pulling						
Iron and steel cables and chains						
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels						
Cart gear						
Locks, latches and keys						
Umbrellas, etc.						
Artificial flowers						
Nets, other than wire nets						
Tents						
Sacks	50					
Racquet and tennis balls						
Paper bags						
C/fwd.	50					

PART VIII OF THE ACT (CONTD.)

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
B/fwd.	50					
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper						
Brush making						
Pea picking						
Feather sorting						
Carding etc. of buttons etc.						
Stuffed toys						
Basket making						
Chocolate and sweetmeats						
Cosaques, Christmas stockings etc.						
Textile weaving						
Lampshades						
TOTAL	50					

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Public Health Inspector's Report for the year 1970

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following are details of visits, interviews, inspections and re-inspections carried out in 1970:-

Accumulations	20
Animals or birds	2
Agriculture Act	2
Ashes Accom.	1
Bakchouses	4
Cesspools	11
Cinemas	1
Clean Air Act	2
Cold Store	25
Drainage	67
Factories	12
Fish Shops & Stalls	11
Food Hygiene	30
Food Prep. Premises	12
Food Vans	8
Gen. Food Premises	14
Housing P. H. Acts	297
Ice Cream Premises	11
Infectious Diseases	16
Interviews	276
Knackers Yards	20
Launderettes	1
Market Inspections	32
Miscellaneous	25
Noise	21
Pet Animals Act	5
Petrol	54
Poultry Premises	10
Rag Flock	2
Sanitary Accommodation	6
Scrap Metal	1
Shops Act	56
Schools	4
Slaughterhouses	645
Swimming Pool	17
Tents, Vans & Sheds	10
Vermin	19
Vermin - Rats & Mice	135
Water Supplies	7
	1,892

The following tables show defects found and remedied during the year by action under the various Acts.

	Defects found	Defects remedied
Sanitary Accommodation and Drains.		
Defective sanitary accommodation	4	4
Blocked and defective drains	8	8
Infestations		
Rats and mice (including visits by Rodent Operator)	80	80
Ants, etc.	1	1
C/fwd.	93	93

	Defects found	Defects remedied
B/fwd.	93	93
Factories Act		
Defective sanitary accommodation	4	4
Housing defects.		
Defective windows	5	2
" walls	2	1
" roofs	10	8
" floors	1	1
" gutters	2	2
" ceilings	2	1
" chimney	1	1
" tap	1	1
" door	1	1
" waste pipe	1	1
Accumulations	7	7
Food Hygiene		
Smoking in food premises	3	3
Cleanliness	1	1
Mobile Vans - washing facilities	1	1
Shops Act		
Temperature	2	2
Hot Water	3	3
Wash basin	1	1
Abstracts	4	4
Blocked exit	1	1
First Aid Box	1	1
Clothing Accommodation	1	1
Defective doors	1	1
Noise Abatement Act		
Mufflers on drills	12	12
	161	154

Table of Notices served during 1970

		Served during 1970	Complied with by 31/12/70
Public Health & Housing Acts	Verbal	27	25
	Letter	10	7
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	Verbal	79	79
	Letter	1	1
Food Hygiene Regulations	Verbal	5	5
Factories Act, 1961	Verbal	4	4
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	Verbal	12	12
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963	Verbal	7	7
	Letter	1	1
		146	141

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963

Under the above Act, 165 premises are registered and 55 inspections were made during the year. The tables above show the defects found and remedied. One accident was reported during the year and this involved the opening of a roller type door, the spring having rusted off the top hinge. This was repaired within a matter of days.

HOUSING

It is interesting to note that during 1970, the Council made 14 Demolition Orders and 2 Closing Orders. 4 undertakings were accepted to make dwellings fit. 9 houses were actually demolished and 24 families were rehoused.

1 application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received during 1970.

DRAINAGE

The Report of the Consultants has now been received and accepted in principle. The Consultants are now discussing the matter with the Ministry. The Report refers to areas of the town not yet sewered, together with various extensions to the present system.

WATER SUPPLIES

The following is the information requested by the Ministry:-

(a) whether the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory in quality and in quantity;

Yes.

(b) where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply; if so, how many and the results obtained; and the results of any chemical analyses; information on the fluoride content of the various supplies should be included wherever possible;

The following is the report of the Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Wisbech and District Water Board:-

"Frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1970 on samples from the Board's sourceworks and the distribution system in this area. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken, and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

The fluoride content of a sample of water from the Water Board Offices, Oldfield Lane, Wisbech (Mixture of water from Marham and Beechamwell) taken on the 10th November, 1970 was NIL.

There were no cases of contamination of the water supply in March Urban District during 1970."

Bacteriological Samples Taken in the March Urban District

Total Tests Taken	No. of Tests Negative	No. of Tests Positive	% Negative Tests
59	59	0	100%

(c) where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including the precautions taken and the number and result of analyses;

The water is hard and has no plumbo-solvent action.

(d) the action taken in respect of any form of contamination;

There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.

/(e)

WATER SUPPLIES (CONTD.)

(e) the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains (i) direct to the houses, and (ii) by means of stand-pipes.

(i)	direct to houses	-	100%
(ii)	by means of stand-pipes	-	Nil

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

There is one licensed site in the area for nine caravans and a further three licences are operative in respect of four caravans.

SWIMMING POOL

A new open air heated swimming pool (110' x 42') was opened in May, 1965 and in addition to the daily checks carried out by the staff 12 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. All were satisfactory. The water is chlorinated there being a six hour turnover.

There are three schools with swimming pools and satisfactory samples at monthly intervals were taken from each school during the summer.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

At present two premises are registered under the above Act and these are subject to inspection by the R.S.P.C.A. and myself.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956 (as amended)

No applications were submitted for approval during 1970.

RATS AND MICE

The refuse dumps are treated monthly and the sewers are dealt with annually. Infestation in the sewers is almost negligible.

Following the retirement of the Council's Rodent Operator, a private Contractor is now employed to deal with infestation generally. A free service is given when infestation occurs in private dwellings and shops.

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACT, 1928 AND 1936.

Under the above Acts, 47 licences were issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit and 1 for the storage of Calcium Carbide.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

Two slaughterhouses were licensed during 1970 and the number of animals kille during the year at the two slaughterhouses is as follows:-

388 Beasts, 429 sheep and 3383 pigs and one calf giving a total of 4201.

In order to inspect these animals a total of 645 visits was required to the two slaughterhouses.

15 slaughtermen's licences were issued during 1970.

Condemnations include the following whole carcases:-

11 pigs which, together with a quantity of offal and parts of carcases brings the total weight of meat and offal condemned up to 1 ton and 5 lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned
from 1st January, 1970 to 31st December, 1970.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	388	-	1	429	3383	-
Number Inspected	388	-	1	429	3383	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	11	-
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	19	-	-	-	43	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	4.89	-	-	-	1.59	-
Tuberculosis Only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	4	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.12	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Food Hygiene

The Minister requests that reports of previous years should be amplified to include the following information:-

(1) the number, if available, of food premises in the area by type of business:

Green grocery	5
Grocery	23
Butchers	15
Fish shops	10
Bakehouses	3
Confectionery	15
Cafes and restaurants	7
Ice cream manufacturers	2
Chemists	4
	84

In addition, there are some 39 licensed premises including clubs.

(2) the number of food premises by type registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, or under Local Acts:-

Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	34
Premises registered for the preparation of meat pies and sausages	15
Premises registered for the sale of fish and chips	10

(3) the number of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary:-

Inspections of registered food premises and other food shops generally (including slaughterhouses) are shown on page 8.

(4) any new educational activity and the progress of established educational activity:-

New posters are regularly exhibited relating to food hygiene and other matters. A talk was given on Public Health work to school leavers at the Hereward School and also to the local women's Business and Professional Club.

(5) the methods of disposal of condemned food:-

Where condemnation certificates are issued for tinned food etc. the food is collected and disposed of by the Council. Condemned meat at the slaughterhouses is collected by Contractors and processed.

(6) where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity condemned:-

One large quantity of frozen food was condemned following a breakdown in a shop refigerator, some 276 items being involved.

(7) reference to the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 - 1952:-

10 samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Cambridge. All 10 samples were classified Grade 1.

At the end of the year 36 shops were registered for the sale of ice cream. There are two manufacturers in the area.

/(8)

(8) reference to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1970:-

161 visits and re-visits were made to food premises during 1970 for compliance with the above Regulations. In addition 645 visits were paid to the local slaughterhouses.

The Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations, 1969

The above Regulations require meat which is unfit for human consumption to be sterilised before entering the chain of distribution. Notifications are received from Port Health Authorities of consignments of food to this area which are to be held in cold store pending disposal for sterilisation and in this respect 25 visits were paid to the Cold Store during 1970.

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966.

The above Regulations which became operative on the 1st January, 1967 lay down requirements as to food hygiene in respect of markets, stalls and delivery vehicles. In this respect regular visits are paid to the stalls on the market and eight mobile vans were inspected. Where contraventions on mobile vans are found the van owner is informed and also the Public Health Department in whose area the van is stationed and this system appears to work very well in practice.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

Few complaints have been received under this Act, the greatest problem being concerned with the noise from road breaking drills. Twelve verbal notices were given in this respect.

Poultry

There is one small poultry processing business where complete evisceration takes place and regular visits are paid to the premises although slaughtering only takes place very occasionally and has virtually ceased at the present time. Weekly visits are paid to the local market where poultry carcases are sold, the carcases in this case having been 'plucked' but not eviscerated. A joint visit is paid with an inspector for the Food and Drugs Authority to the local Christmas poultry sales.

In conclusion I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council and my colleagues on the Staff for their helpful co-operation, and particularly Mr. Littler, the Clerk of the Council, for his valuable advice and assistance.

I am, Madam Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. BURTON,

Public Health Inspector.

9th September, 1971.